(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a bill in this regard is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations made by the National Commission for Women, proposal is under the consideration of the Department of Women and Child Development to amend the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 to make its provisions more astringent and effective.

(c) No time limit can be indicated at this stage.

Free text books under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†3275. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether text books are distributed free of cost to the students from Class I to VIII under "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan";

(b) if so, whether text books are not being provided free of cost to the general category students from class VIth to VIIIth; and

(c) if so, whether such discrimination is conforming to the spirit of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI) : (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme has provision for distribution of free text books to all girls and SC/ST children in classes I to VIII if there is no existing State Government scheme for the same purpose. This is a special provision to assist the weaker section of society.

Lack of nutritional food

†3276. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 70 per cent of poor children,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.